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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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PTQ7710

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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00	CA-02
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OCS-03	OIS-01	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-00
	SP-00	SS0-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00
	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09	G-00	/044W	
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R 111859Z OCT 95
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8379
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCCC//
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 006354

DEPARTMENT FOR S/CT AMBASSADOR WILCOX AND ARA/BSC

E.O. 12356: DECL: 10/10/05
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PTER, IR, AR
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALLY DENIES ANY SECRET
- DEAL WITH IRAN IN AMIA CASE

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REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 6235, (B) STATE 233720

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. HEDGBETH, DAS, A/ISS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 10 OCT 2015
DATE/CASE ID: 24 NOV 2008 200601030

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1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY:

[REDACTED] OCTOBER 10 TO DISAVOW - IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS - RECENT PRESS REPORTS ALLEGING POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS, SECRET MEETINGS, OR OTHER CONTACT BETWEEN THE GOA AND IRAN REGARDING THE JULY 18, 1994, BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE JEWISH MUTUAL ASSOCIATION (AMIA). [REDACTED] PRESENTED COPIES OF THREE LETTERS THAT WERE DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 10 TO REPRESENTATIVES GILMAN, LANTOS, AND ROS-LEHTINEN CONCERNING THE SEPTEMBER 28 US CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON THE AMIA INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.

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3. [REDACTED] OCTOBER 10 TO DISCUSS THE AMIA CASE, WHICH HAS RECEIVED DAILY PRESS COVERAGE IN BUENOS AIRES SINCE THE SEPTEMBER 28 HIRC HEARING IN WASHINGTON (REF B). MOST REPORTING HAS CONCENTRATED ON COMMENTS MADE AT THE HEARING BY ARGENTINE JEWISH LEADER RUBEN BERAJA AND THE TESTIMONY OF AMBASSADOR WILCOX (REF A). BERAJA'S CHARGE THAT THE GOA HAS BEEN 'SOFT ON IRAN' FOR FEAR OF ANOTHER ATTACK HAS SET OFF A MEDIA EFFORT TO UNEARTH EVIDENCE OF A SECRET DEAL BETWEEN THE GOA AND IRAN.

4. [REDACTED] COPIES OF THREE LETTERS THAT HAD BEEN DELIVERED BY ARGENTINE
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AMBASSADOR GRANILLO OCAMPO IN WASHINGTON THAT DAY.
THE LETTERS (COPIES FAXED TO ARA/BSC) WERE ADDRESSED
TO REPRESENTATIVES GILMAN, LANTOS, AND ROS-LEHTINEN
AND SIGNED BY FOREIGN MINISTER DI TELLA. THEY
OUTLINED THE FRUSTRATION ARGENTINA FELT AT CRITICISMS
MADE IN THE HEARING, STRESSED THE FACT THAT TERRORISM
IS A PROBLEM COMMON TO MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE
UNITED STATES, AND INVITED THE REPRESENTATIVES TO
VISIT BUENOS AIRES FOR TALKS WITH GOA OFFICIALS TO GET
FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE

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INVESTIGATION INTO AMIA.

5. [] TOOK UP THE ISSUE OF SPECULATION IN THE PRESS THAT SOME KIND OF A DEAL HAD BEEN MADE WITH IRAN CONCERNING THE AMIA INVESTIGATION. [] TAKING GREAT PAINS TO MAKE HIS STATEMENT AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE, SAID HE WOULD LIKE AMBASSADOR WILCOX AND THE USG TO KNOW THAT A) THERE HAD BEEN NO SECRET MEETING BETWEEN DI TELLA AND THE IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, B) THERE WAS NO SECRET AGREEMENT WITH IRAN, []

6. [] CONTINUING THE THEME, SAID SOMEONE IS MANIPULATING THE PRESS, AND THAT []

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[] BUT THAT THE GOA HAD GONE AHEAD WITH STRONG ANTITERRORIST COMMITMENTS INTERNATIONALLY.

7. [] REMARKED THAT THE MEETING BETWEEN DI TELLA AND HIS IRANIAN COUNTERPART LAST MARCH WAS APPARENTLY THE SOURCE OF THE PRESS FRENZY ON "SECRET DEALS," BUT THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED AT THE TIME AND EVEN COVERED IN THE PRESS. [] CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE THOUGHT THAT BERAJA NEEDS TO "SPEAK UP" TO CLEAR THE AIR ON THIS PRESS SPECULATION AND AVOID PROBLEMS FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

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